GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4708
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2017
Assessment and Development of Wasteland
Prasad Dr. Bhagirath

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated area of wasteland as assessed by the Union Government, State/ UT-wise;
(b) the area reclaimed for cultivation during the last ten years, State/UT-wise;
(c) the efforts and achievements made in arresting advancement of ravines and make use of land in Chambal ravines; and
(d) the steps taken by the Government to tackle comprehensibly the problem of wasteland to make gainful use of such lands?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a): The estimated area under wastelands in the country during 2008-09 is 467021.16 square km. as per "Wastelands Atlas of India, 2011-Change Analysis Based on Temporal Satellite Data of 2005-06 and 2008-09" (2011). The State / UT-wise details are given in Annexure I.

(b): The State / UT-wise details of wastelands reclaimed for cultivation during the last ten years is not centrally maintained.
(c) & (d): Department of Land Resources is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States (except Goa) covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands including those situated in the catchment of Chambal river.
The activities being undertaken inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons, etc.

State-wise details of number of projects, sanctioned area of the projects and
funds released as Central share are given in Annexure II.

The projects are at various stages of implementation.

In addition, other Central Ministries / Departments like Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare are implementing schemes and programmes like the Per Drop More Crop component of PMKSY which inter alia includes activities for water conservation, drought proofing, water harvesting, ground water recharge, etc. that complement and supplement interventions undertaken under the WDC-PMKSY.

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